

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of making a stent comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a sheet having a first side, a second side, a third side, a fourth side, a fifth side, a sixth side, a seventh side, and an eighth side, and

b) connecting the second side to the eighth side and connecting the fourth side to the sixth side so that the third side and the seventh side define a branch aperture disposed between the first side and the fifth side.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

c) disposing and securing a second tubular member having a longitudinal bore within the branch aperture of the first tubular member, the longitudinal bore of the second tubular member in fluid communication with the longitudinal bore of the first tubular member.

3. A method of making a stent comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a sheet having a longitudinal axis and a first portion and a second portion; the first portion having a proximal end and a distal end and a first lateral side and a second lateral side, the lateral sides of the first portion substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis and disposed apart from each other a first distance;

the second portion having a proximal end and a distal end and a first lateral side and a second lateral side, the lateral sides of the second portion substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis and disposed apart from each other a second distance that is less than the first distance, the proximal end of the second portion communicating with the distal end of the first portion;

b) connecting the first lateral side of the first portion to the second lateral side of the first portion and connecting the first lateral side of the second portion to the second lateral side of the second portion to form a first tubular member having a longitudinal bore therethrough, a portion of the

distal end of the first portion and a portion of the proximal end of the second portion defining a side branch aperture.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

c) disposing and securing a second tubular member having a longitudinal bore within the branch aperture of the first tubular member, the longitudinal bore of the second tubular member in fluid communication with the longitudinal bore of the first tubular member.

5. A method of making a bifurcated stent comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a first expandable tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end and a longitudinal bore therethrough, the first tubular member provided with a branch aperture disposed between the proximal end and the distal end, the branch aperture communicating with the longitudinal bore and the aperture sized and adapted to receive and secure a second expandable tubular member;

b) delivering the first expandable tubular member to a bifurcated vessel having a first lumen and a second lumen so that the first expandable member is disposed within the first lumen and the branch aperture communicates with the second lumen;

c) widening the branch aperture in an amount sufficient to further align the branch aperture with the second lumen;

d) expanding the first expandable member in an amount sufficient to secure the first expandable member in the first lumen;

e) preparing a second expandable tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end having longitudinal bore therethrough;

f) delivering the second expandable tubular member into the branch aperture so that the distal end of the second expandable tubular member is disposed within the second lumen and the proximal end of the second expandable tubular member is disposed within the branch aperture of the first tubular member, the longitudinal bore of the second expandable tubular member in fluid communication with the longitudinal bore of the first longitudinal member; and

g) expanding the second expandable tubular member in an amount sufficient to secure the second expandable tubular member within the second lumen and within the branch aperture.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein during step c) the branch aperture is widened in an amount sufficient to form a branch securing lip.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein during step g) the second expandable tubular member is widened in an amount sufficient to form a branch securing lip.

8. A method of making a bifurcated stent comprising the steps of:

a) delivering a first guide wire into the first lumen of a bifurcated vessel having a first lumen and a second lumen;

b) delivering a second guide wire into the second lumen of the bifurcated vessel;

c) preparing a first expandable tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end and a longitudinal bore therethrough, the first tubular member provided with a branch aperture disposed between the proximal end and the distal end, the branch aperture communicating with the longitudinal bore and the aperture sized and adapted to receive and secure a second expandable tubular member;

d) mounting the first expandable tubular member on a first balloon catheter,

e) mounting the first expandable tubular member on the first guide wire,

f) delivering the first expandable tubular member to the first lumen of the bifurcated vessel so that the first expandable member is disposed within the first lumen and the branch aperture communicates with the second lumen;

g) mounting a second balloon catheter on the second guide wire;

h) delivering the balloon portion of the second balloon catheter into the side-branch aperture;

i) inflating the second balloon catheter to widen the branch aperture in an amount sufficient to further align the branch aperture with the second lumen;

j) inflating the first balloon catheter to expand the first expandable member in an amount sufficient to secure the first expandable member in the first lumen;

k) deflating the first and the second balloon catheters;

l) removing the second balloon catheter;

m) preparing a second expandable tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end having longitudinal bore therethrough;

n) mounting the second expandable tubular member on the second balloon catheter;

o) delivering the second expandable tubular member into the branch aperture so that the distal end of the second expandable tubular member is disposed within the second lumen and the proximal end of the second expandable tubular member is disposed within the branch aperture of the first tubular member, the longitudinal bore of the second expandable tubular member in fluid communication with the longitudinal bore of the first longitudinal member;

p) inflating the first balloon catheter;

q) inflating the second balloon catheter to expand the second expandable tubular member in an amount sufficient to secure the second expandable tubular member within the second lumen and within the branch aperture.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein, during step i) the branch aperture is widened in an amount sufficient to form a branch securing lip.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein during step q) the second expandable tubular member is widened in an amount sufficient to form a branch securing lip.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the first balloon catheter is inflated before the second balloon catheter is inflated and the first balloon catheter is left inflated until the second expandable tubular member is secured within the branch aperture by the second balloon catheter.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein steps p) and q) are carried out simultaneously.